

DISABILITIES ACCESS

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OUTDOORS

Whalewatching boats throughout the region are reporting the best season in recent years for sightings of humpbacks and other species. Naturalists working on boats out of Plymouth, Barnstable and Provincetown said last week that more abundant sources of food for the whales on Stellwagen Bank and areas even closer to South Shore and Cape Cod ports were responsible. Declines in the numbers of sand lance in particular in the early '90s kept whales farther offshore and harder to find, according to a spokesman for the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, a leading institute for whale research.

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A 300-foot ramp leading to Duxbury Beach was dedicated last week, the culmination of an 18-month, \$62,000 project designed to improve access to the popular recreation site. It will allow people who use wheelchairs and others who have had difficulty moving over sand to enjoy the beach easily and regularly, according to David Hall of the Massachusetts Office on Disability, who spoke at Sunday's ceremony. A specially designed "surf chair" with balloon tires was also presented to the town for beachgoer use, a gift of April Daughy-Kerle in memory of her brother Jeffrey Daughy.